

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056747

FOLL SENT ACTION LUSAKA INFO PRETORIA CAPE TOWN FROM SECSTATE
28 MAR 73 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 056747

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, ZA

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM MET WITH UNDP RESIDENT
REPRESENTATIVE FOR ZAMBIA ANTHONY GILPIN ON MARCH 26 FOR
DISCUSSION ON RESPONSES TO ZAMBIAN ASSISTANCE REQUESTS
AND UNSC RESOLUTIONS 328 AND 329.

2. NEWSOM BRIEFLY OUTLINED PRACTICAL PROBLEMS (NEED FOR
CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES, SCARCITY OF
AID FUNDS, NEED TO MAKE CASE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL ASSISTANCE
RATHER THAN EMERGENCY HELP. IMPORTANCE OF IBRD ECONOMIC
ASSESSMENTS, ETC.) WHICH MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE WE CAN
MAKE FINAL DECISION ON GRZ ASSISTANCE REQUESTS. HE
STRESSED THAT HIS REMARKS ON THESE POINTS DID NOT INDICATE
LACK OF SYMPATHY ON PART USG BUT WERE MERELY CANDID EX-
PLANATION OF PRACTICAL QUESTIONS WHICH MUST BE ADDRESSED.
NEWSOM NOTED THAT US INTEREST IN ASSISTING ZAMBIA TO
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REDUCE HER DEPENDENCE ON RHODESIAN ROUTES ALREADY DEMONSTRATED BY CONSIDERABLE US AID TO TANZAM ROAD PROJECT AND FORTHCOMING FINANCING OF BOTZAM AND MALAWI ROAD PROJECTS. HE ALSO GAVE GILPIN RUNDOWN ON FAVORABLE EXIM RESPONSE TO VARIOUS GRZ FINANCING REQUESTS.

3. GILPIN TOLD NEWSOM THAT CURRENT UN THINKING IS TO PROVIDE GRZ (THROUGH MECHANISM UNDP) COMPETENT TECHNICAL ADVISORS WHO CAN HELP WITH TRADE ROUTE REORIENTATION PROGRAM. HE NOTED THAT GRZ FELT THAT EXECUTIVE DECISION-MAKERS IN AD HOC TASK FORCE HAD TO BE ZAMBIAN NATIONALS. HE THOUGHT THAT A UN SECRETARIAT WORKING GROUP TO COOPERATE WITH ZAMBIAN PERMREP LUSAKA WOULD BE SET UP IN NEW YORK HOWEVER, ABSENCE OF UN SECGEN FROM NEW YORK HAS INHIBITED ANY FINAL DECISION ON MATTER THUS FAR.

4. GILPIN SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT US WOULD BE DISMANTLING ITS STRATEGIC STOCKPILE AND INDICATED THAT IF THIS WERE SO, IT WOULD CREATE PROBLEMS FOR ZAMBIAN COPPER. NEWSOM SAID THAT PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS (CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL, AMONG OTHER THINGS) WOULD DELAY ANY SUCH STOCKPILE REDUCTIONS, NOTED THAT DEPARTMENT WOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO POINT OUT POTENTIAL PROBLEMS FOR FOREIGN PRODUCERS, AND STRESSED THAT WHEN AND IF REDUCTIONS WERE FINALLY APPROVED, USG POLICY WOULD BE TO RELEASE COPPER AND OTHER MATERIALS GRADUALLY IN ORDER TO AVOID UNDUE HARDSHIPS ON FOREIGN PRODUCERS.

5. GILPIN ALLUDED AT ONE POINT TO GRZ CONCERN OVER PRESENCE OF SAG ARMED FORCES IN RHODESIA. NEWSOM TOLD HIM THAT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US INDICATES THAT THERE WERE NO REPEAT NO SAG MILITARY FORCES IN RHODESIA-- ONLY POLICE CONTINGENT WHICH HAD BEEN THERE FOR SOME TIME PRIOR TO BORDER CLOSURE. HE THEN POINTED OUT THAT CURRENT RELATIVELY HELPFUL ATTITUDE OF SAG TOWARD GRZ TRADE REORIENTATION PROGRAM WAS ONE WHICH COULD CAUSE SAG LEADERSHIP SOME INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS AND THAT CONTINUED GRZ ACCUSATIONS THAT SAG PROVIDING RHODESIA WITH MILITARY REINFORCEMENTS LIKELY ERODE SAG' S WILLINGNESS BE ACCOMMODATING TO GRZ.

6. GILPIN OFFERED OPINION THAT RHODESIA COULD BE
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SERIOUSLY HURT OVER NEXT YEAR BY LOSS OF REVENUE FROM

ZAMBIA IN COMBINATION WITH DROUGHT. HE THOUGHT THAT IF,
AS SEEMED LIKELY, NO ECONOMIC SUPPORT FROM SOUTH AFRICA
FORTHCOMING IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, SANCTIONS AGAINST
RHODESIA MIGHT FINALLY DO THE JOB INTENDED. ROGERS UNQUOTE
ROGERS

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